

Message Text

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EUR/RPE - MR. POLANSKY (SUBS)
FCC - MR. CROWELL (INFO)
OTP - MR. FISHMAN (INFO)
-----060923 171142Z /15

R 161942Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 041386

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL, XM, FR, UK

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE FOR LATIN
AMERICA, LIMA, APRIL 10-15

1. THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR TELEGRAPH
AND TELEPHONE (CCITT), A PERMANENT ORGAN OF THE
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU), HAS ANNOUNCED
THAT AT THE INVITATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND TELECOMMUNI-
CATION ADMINISTRATION OF PERU, THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE FOR LATIN AMERICA WILL BE HELD IN
LIMA, APRIL 10-15 INCLUSIVE. THIS COMMITTEE IS ONE OF
FOUR REGIONAL COMMITTEES. IT LAST MET IN BRASILIA IN 1973.
THE PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO DEVELOP A
GENERAL PLAN FOR THE REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICA-
TION NETWORK AND TO HELP IN PLANNING INTERNATIONAL TELE-
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES. IT MAY, IN ADDITION, REFER TO THE
CCITT OR THE INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR RADIO
(CCIR) QUESTIONS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO NEW OR
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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT SEEKS TO ACHIEVE THESE PURPOSES
THROUGH TRAFFIC FORECASTS, AS WELL AS ROUTING, ARTERIES
AND NUMBERING PLANS TO ASSIST TELECOMMUNICATION ADMINISTRA-
TIONS IN THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL
SERVICES BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN IS MR. A. C. NUNEZ OF MEXICO AND HIS VICE
CHAIRMAN IS MR. R. G. P. SEVERINI OF ARGENTINA.

2. ATTENDANCE AT THE 1973 BRASILIA MEETING WAS
DISAPPOINTING, SINCE LESS THAN HALF OF THE COUNTRIES IN
THE REGION PARTICIPATED. THESE INCLUDED ARGENTINA,
BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA,
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, PARAGUAY AND PERU. COUNTRIES
OUTSIDE THE REGION ALSO ATTENDED (SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY,
JAPAN, UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES).

3. THE VALUE OF THE REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEES HAS BEEN

QUESTIONED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ITU. IT WAS NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE ITU COMPUTER HAS LARGELY TAKEN OVER THE JOB OF COMPILING FORECASTED TRAFFIC STATISTICS WHICH UP TO 1973 OR SO HAD BEEN DONE BY HAND AT THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES. IT HAS ALSO BEEN NOTED THAT THE REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEES ARE NOW ANXIOUS TO ENGAGE IN SPECIFIC FACILITY PLANNING AS OPPOSED TO SIMPLY FORECASTING REQUIREMENTS. PLANNING IS OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEES, AND THE U.S. ALONG WITH OTHER MAJOR COUNTRIES WHICH ADAMANTLY OBJECT TO ANY FACILITY PLANNING BY THE ITU, REGULARLY TAKE THE FLOOR AT PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS TO STEER THE DISCUSSION AWAY FROM THE ONE SUBJECT WHICH THE OTHER PARTICIPANTS ARE MOST INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING.

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4. INASMUCH AS FORECASTING AND THE RECONCILIATION OF FORECASTED TRAFFIC STATISTICS IS DONE OUTSIDE THE MEETING, THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA IS LARGELY CONCERNED WITH AN EXCHANGE OF GENERAL INFORMATION ON TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION; THE COORDINATION OF INTRA-REGION NETWORKS; AN ANALYSIS OF THE FORECASTS, AND CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS FROM UNDER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. DURING THE LAST THREE DAYS OF THE MEETING, INTRA-REGION TARIFFS WILL BE DISCUSSED. THE USG HAS NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE TARIFF MEETINGS (ALTHOUGH PRIVATE US COMPANIES, SUCH AS ATT, MAY OCCASIONALLY ATTEND TO GIVE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE).

5. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEND THE LIMA MEETING, AS THIS IS AN OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE ITU AND BECAUSE, AS A MATTER OF POLICY, WE SUPPORT THE ITU AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A RATIONAL INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION REGIME. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE DISAPPOINTING OUTCOME OF THE BRASILIA MEETING WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN GAUGING THE LEVEL OF HOST COUNTRY INTEREST IN LIMA MEETING. SPECIFICALLY, EMBASSIES ARE REQUESTED TO DETERMINE FROM HOST COUNTRY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS THEIR INTEREST AS A MATTER OF POLICY IN THE MEETING, AND FROM TELECOMMUNICATION OFFICIALS WHETHER THEY WILL ATTEND AND THE KIND OF PREPARATION THEY ARE UNDERTAKING IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING IN ORDER TO ENSURE A USEFUL OUTCOME. POSTS MAY INFORM HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS THAT U.S. IS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING IF IT WERE EVIDENT THAT THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION THEMSELVES LOOKED UPON THE MEETING AS A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION INTERESTS.

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6. FOR GENEVA. PLEASE ADVISE CCITT DIRECTOR BURTZ OF
THE CONSULTATION WE ARE UNDERTAKING, AND ASSURE HIM WE
WILL GIVE HIM THE RESULTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VANCE

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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